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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 ARA-00 SSO-00 AMAD-01 CA-01 /024 W
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O 272317Z DEC 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3446

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 10386

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC: (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W -- JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: (A) STATE 356754
- (B) STATE 234739
- (C) SAN SALVADOR 6929

1. C--ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT DR. ZUGIBE WAS GOING TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS AS THOSE OF JOHN SULLIVAN. UNFORTUNATELY HE DID NOT DO SO (REF A). WITHOUT A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION WE SEE NO WAY THE REMAINS CAN BE SHIPPED TO THE U.S. WITHOUT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE LONG, COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT. HAD THE REMAINS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, THERE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEMS SHIPPING THEM TO THE U.S.

3. WE ARE, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, AT THE SAME STAGE WE WERE IN AUGUST 1982 WHEN THE DEPARTMENT ASKED US TO SHIP THESE REMAINS TO THE U.S. (REF B). AS WE POINTED OUT THEN (REF C), IT IS NOT REASIBLE TO SEND THESE REMAINS TO THE U.S. AT THIS STAGE, THEREFORE, WE FEEL THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL PAY IS IRRELEVANT. WE OFFER BELOW TWO POSSIBLITIES FOR ACTION.

4. WE NOTED IN REF A THAT DR. ZUGIBE HAD DIFFICULTY COMPARING THE MICROFICHE X-RAYS WITH THE FULL SIZE X-RAYS TAKEN HERE BECAUSE THEY WERE TAKEN FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. IF DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE US WITH COPIES OF THE MICROFICHE X-RAYS, WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE FOR NEW X-RAYS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE SAME PERSPECTIVE. PERHAPS THIS WILL ENABLE DR. ZUGIBE TO MAKE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.

5. RATHER THAN SHIPPING THE REMAINS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR EXAMINATION, WE SUGGEST IT WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL AND LESS COSTLY TO HAVE A U.S. FORENSIC SPECIALIST COME HERE FOR A MORE DETAILED LOOK AT THE BONES IF IDENTIFICATION BY THE SECOND SET OF X-RAYS IS NOT POSSIBLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE ON THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 ABOVE.
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 15 1984
RDG XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENTERED EXISTING MARKINGS
D.C. RELEASABLE
REMARKS
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1982 DEC 28 AM 8 00
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